

MANUAL OF BASIC NEUROPATHOLOGY. By Raymond Escourrolle, Jacques Poirier (translated by Lucien J. Rubinstein) (Pp. 242. Illustrated £8.50). Philadelphia, London and Toronto: Saunders, 1978.

ONE of the great difficulties in pathology at the present time is the incorporation of specialised knowledge in general training programmes and text books. This difficulty is well illustrated by neuropathology which, in the last decade, has advanced greatly by the use of histochemistry, electronmicroscopy etc., but which often receives superficial treatment in otherwise excellent textbooks of morbid anatomy.

In 'Manual of Basic Neuropathology' the text is aimed at medical students and at junior trainees in general pathology and in the neurological sciences. The text is simple, eponymous terminology has been kept to a minimum, and only generally accepted contribution from histochemistry, electron microscopy and tissue culture etc., have been included. The text is well illustrated, the standard of photomicrographs is high and diagrams are used very effectively. One minor criticism of this book is the failure in many instances to relate pathological changes in the nervous system to general pathological principles and to disease in other systems. This defect however, can be largely overcome if the student uses this book in combination with a more general textbook. This publication is excellent value and is highly recommended.

I.V.A.

NEUROLOGY OF PREGNANCY. By James O. Donaldson. (Pp xiv+271; illustrated. £13.75). Eastbourne: Holt-Saunders, 1978.

THIS is an excellent monograph and a worthy member of the successful series "Major Problems in Neurology". There is useful information assembled for both neurologist and obstetrician which is not readily available in textbooks. I was especially interested in the sections on catamenial sciatica and obstetric palsies and the chapters on cerebrovascular disease and eclampsia.

This book should be readily available in the departments of neurology and obstetrics in all hospitals. It is well illustrated and there are numerous references.

J.H.D.M.

SYMPOSIUM: THE EYE IN MEDICINE. (Pp. 106. Illustrated. No price stated). Edinburgh. Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, 1978.

THIS small volume succinctly presents and discusses certain ophthalmological disorders which have particular relevance and importance for the general physician and general practitioner.

The ophthalmic manifestations of diabetes, thyroid disease, hypertension, rheumatic disorders, and certain genetic abnormalities are briefly and clearly described with a current explanation of their physical signs and a review of their pertinent therapeutic modalities.

Ophthalmic aspects of some central nervous system abnormalities are presented with special reference to papilloedema and disorders of ocular motility, and a small section is devoted to the electrophysiological evaluation of visual functions. A valuable account of the ocular side effects of systematically administered drugs is given and some useful pointers are provided for the evaluation of the optic disc in glaucoma.

Most of the chapters are very brief with few illustrations, and much detail is omitted in a text of this size. A few inaccuracies and occasional syntactical errors are present, but on the whole this volume makes easy reading, is full of useful clinical points and up-to-date ophthalmological information, and should be helpful reading for the physician, general practitioner, medical student and junior trainee ophthalmologist.

D.B.A.